Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OUAGAD 01538 311803Z

47
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 AGR-20

SWF-02 AID-20 IO-14 DRC-01 /194 W
---------- 054413
P R 311540Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8300
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 1538

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PDEV, EGEN, UV
SUBJECT: QUARTERLY REPORT ON VOLTAN SITUATION

REF: OUAGA 859, 1082, 1347

1. AS REQUESTED BY AF, FOLLOWING ARE LEADING DEVELOP-
MENTS AND TRENDS IN UPPER VOLTA, AS BACKGROUND FOR
MONTHLY REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.

2. MILITARY REGIME ESTABLISHED BY PRESIDENT LAMIZANA
IN FEBRUARY STILL CONFRONTS SUBSTANTIAL LACK OF POPULAR
ENTHUSIASM. GOUV IS BEGINNING STEPS DESIGNED TO REMEDY
THAT, BUT IT IS TOO EARLY TO PREDICT THEIR SUCCESS.
MEASURES CARRIED OUT SO FAR HAVE HAD LITTLE EFFECT.

3. MAIN GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED POLITICAL EVENTS (SEE
REFTELS) HAVE BEEN PRESIDENT LAMIZANA'S MAY 30; SPEECH
OUTLINING GOUV "ACTION PROGRAM," APPOINTMENT OF
NATIONAL
RENEWAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL (REPLACING FORMER
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PAGE 02 OUAGAD 01538 311803Z

PARLIAMENT), AND DIVISION OF COUNTRY INTO TEN PRE-

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

FECTURES. IN ADDITION, GOUV-SPONSORED CULTURAL FEDER-
TION HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED, AND A NATIONAL RENEWAL
ANIMATION COMMITTEE WAS CREATED.

4. GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY PLANS TO CREATE PRO-REGIME
POLITICAL PARTY AND GRANT AMNESTY TO EX-PRESIDENT
YAMEOGO AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN EARLY AUGUST. IF
LAMIZANA IS ABLE TO GET YAMEOGO TO GIVE HIS SUPPORT TO
PRO-REGIME PARTY, THAT WOULD PROVIDE GOVERNMENT WITH
SOME CIVILIAN POLITICAL CADRES, WHICH IT AS PRESENT
LACKS. HOWEVER, EVEN IN THAT EVENT, MUCH OR MOST OF
FORMERLY-DOMINANT UDV-RDA PARTY, HEADED BY POLITICIANS
OF 1971-74 CONSTITUTIONAL REGIME, WOULD REMAIN ALOOF.

5. REGIME'S STANDING WITH POLITICALLY-AWAKENED SEG-
MENTS OF POPULATION IS STILL POOR, THOUGH OBSERVERS
FEEL IT IS IMPROVING SLIGHTLY. LABOR MOVEMENT IS STILL
NEGATIVE; BUT, WHILE MAINTAINING AN INDEPENDENT POSI-
TION, SOME LABOR REPRESENTATIVES HAVE AGREED TO PARTICI-
PATE IN CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL IN ORDER MAKE LABOR'S
VOICE HEARD. LABOR APPEARS UNWILLING RISK STRIKES OR
OTHER POSITIVE ACTION LEST UNIONS BE ABOLISHED OR TAKEN
OVER BY GOUV "A LA TOGOLAISE."

6. EDUCATED ELITE, WHICH CONSISTS MAINLY OF GOVERNMENT
EMPLOYEES AND MOST OF WHICH FORMERLY SUPPORTED MLN
PARTY, STILL HAS NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD REGIME. GOUV
FURTHER ALIENATED CIVILIAN ELITE IN EARLY JULY BY
APPOINTING MILITARY OFFICERS AS PREFECTS OF ALL TEN
NEW PREFECTURES (NO JOBS FOR CIVILIANS). AS A CON-
CILIATORY GESTURE, GOUV REPORTEDLY INTENDS OVER NEXT
FEW MONTHS TO REPLACE A COUPLE OF MILITARY
PREFECTS WITH CIVILIANS AND CREATE A FEW NEW SUB-
CABINET POSTS FOR CIVILIANS.

5. AS USUAL IN AN EXTREMELY POOR AND 95 PERCENT RURAL
COUNTRY, MOST PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED WITH SURVIVIAL, NOT
WITH POLITICS. AS DROUGHT-STRICKEN 1972 AND 1973
DEMONSTRATED, RAINFALL IS KEY TO UPPER VOLTA'S LARGELY
SUBSISTENCE ECONOMY. THIS YEAR'S RAINS STARTED SLOWLY
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PAGE 03 OUAGAD 01538 311803Z

BUT WERE GOOD THROUGH JULY. IF GOOD RAINS CONTINUE
THROUGH END OF SEPTEMBER, UPPER VOLTA CAN HAVE A GOOD
HARVEST, AND THE REGIME WILL REAP THE BENEFIT.

8. THERE IS ONE PROBLEM WHICH, IF MISHANDLED, COULD
GIVE REGIME SERIOUS PROBLEM. AT PRESENT SEVEN
SERGEANTS AND SOME 20 CIVILIANS ARE UNDER JUDICIAL
INVESTIGATION FOR DIVERTING TO THEIR OWN USE A PORTION

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

OF EMERGENCY GRAIN DONATED TO UPPER VOLTA (OUAGA A-27). MAJOR JOANNY OUEDRAOGO, CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL DROUGHT SUB-COMMITTEE, HAS BEEN INTERROGATED IN THE CASE AND WAS RECENTLY CONFINED TO QUARTERS AT THE BARRACKS.THUS FAR, THE REGIME HAS INDICATED IT WOULD LET JUSTICE TAKE ITS COURSE. IF THE REGIME WERE INSTEAD TO INTERVENE AND CARRY OUT SOME KIND OF COVER-UP, THAT COULD COMPROMISE ITS POSITION.
GRAHAM

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